



STATE SOIL CONSERVATION MEETING

Meeting. The State Soil Conservation Committee met on May 5 in Des Moines. The following was discussed at the meeting:

- Dr. Kathleen Delate, Professor/Extension Organic Ag Specialist, provided a special presentation on organic farming in Iowa. Iowa is the fifth largest organic producer in the country.
- Vince Sitzmann, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs), provided an overview of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies meeting that was held in Des Moines on April 26 through 28. Meeting topics included climate change, nutrient loss reduction, and an overview of the Water Quality Initiative.
- Susan Kozak, DALs, discussed the issues related to an abandoned mine shaft on the south side of Des Moines. The land had a single mine shaft that was 200 feet deep, and a 40-foot tree had fallen into the collapsed area and disappeared. The Department worked with the City of Des Moines to fix the problem, and the area is back to normal. The Mines and Minerals Bureau has funds available for emergencies, and the city had the personnel and equipment to restore the area.
- Jim Gillespie, Soil Conservation Division Administrator, discussed the moneys that were appropriated by the Iowa Legislature for FY 2017, and also organized a planning committee meeting to begin discussions for the FY 2018 budget requests. This meeting was scheduled for May 10 in Des Moines.

June Tour. The June meeting will be held in the Lake Okoboji area on June 20, and the Committee will meet with the Conservation Districts of Iowa Board. The following day, interested persons can participate in a tour of the area.

Additional Information. For additional information, refer to the Committee [website](#).

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